

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method of manufacturing a hardened photocathode comprising:

forming a photocathode having an input side for receiving photons and an output side for generating electrons in response to received photons;

exposing the output side of the photocathode to cesium;

exposing the output side of the photocathode to oxygen; and

exposing the output side of the photocathode to fluorine, wherein the exposure of the photocathode to cesium, oxygen and fluorine comprises separate steps of exposure to cesium and exposure to a combination of oxygen and fluorine.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein the photocathode comprises a gallium arsenide (GaAs) or indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs) layer mounted upon a transparent substrate.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein the output side of the photocathode is exposed to cesium, oxygen and fluorine until the photoelectric response of the photocathode is maximized.

19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Original)** The method of claims 18, wherein the steps of exposure are iterated until the photoelectric response is maximized.